

Andrew Andre House  
821 High Street  
Saltsburg  
Indiana County  
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-5423

HABS  
PA,  
32-SALT,  
2-

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, DC 20013-7127

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

ANDREW ANDRE HOUSE

HABS No. PA-5423

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2-

- Location: 821 High St., Saltsburg, Conemaugh Township, Indiana County, Pennsylvania.
- Present Owner: Joseph and Helen Scott, Robert B. Scott
- Present Use: Single-family residence.
- Significance: This mid-century dwelling reflects the most common vernacular form of housing of that period, situated southeast of the commercial center that was earlier founded on canal development; this building also served as the home of cabinet maker Andrew Andre for more than fifty years.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: ca. 1858; tax records indicated a rise in valuation of the lot from \$75 to one with an "additional improvement" assessed at \$250.
2. Original and subsequent owners: The following is an incomplete chain of title to the land on which the structure stands, historically lot Nos. 177, 178, and 179. Reference is to the Recorder of Deeds Office of the County of Indiana, Pennsylvania.

1856 Deed July 30, 1856. (No deedbook given)  
William and Anna Redpath  
TO  
Andrew S. Andre

1905 Deed July 24, 1905, Volume 93, Page 303.  
Mary Andre, Della Andre, et al. (A. Andre's heirs)  
TO  
Frances H. Johnston

1909 Deed February 8, 1909, Volume 115, Page 109.

Frances H. Johnston  
TO  
John B. Johnston, et al.

1916 Deed August 9, 1916, Volume 153, Page 403.

J.B. Johnston, et al.  
TO  
Herbert A. Scott

1937 Deed February 10, 1937, Volume 286, Page 230.

Herbert A. Scott and Hadassah G. Scott  
TO  
Vera Neal

3. Original plans and construction: No original plans or drawings have been located; however, the building appears to retain its original two-story, rectangular, frame form.
4. Alterations and additions: A one-story, shed-roofed kitchen ell with adjacent porch was appended to the east/rear facade; but it appears to have been done not long after construction of the main house, based on materials and form.

- B. Historical Context: Deeds indicate that Andrew Andre, who with his brother Joseph manufactured cabinet ware in a shop on Point Street, constructed the dwelling at 821 High St. about 1858. Joseph was a sawyer who operated a sawmill with a shop for turning posts used in high-post beds (Stewart, 505).

For additional context, twenty-one reports on other buildings in Saltsburg may be consulted, as well as overview histories of the town of Saltsburg (HABS No. PA-5438) and of canal town development in Pennsylvania (HABS No. PA-5666). See also, Sara Amy Leach, ed., Two Historic Pennsylvania Canal Towns: Alexandria and Saltsburg (Washington, DC: Historica American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record, National Park Service, March 1989).

## PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

### A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: Five-bay, two-story vernacular frame dwelling undistinguished by any kind of ornamentation.
2. Condition of fabric: Fair.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: About 38' x 22', with a 14'-deep one-story addition.
2. Foundation: Stone, slightly banked.
3. Walls: Horizontal wood siding; German siding (flat panels with a narrow space between) on the west wall; broad clapboard on the north and south walls; narrow clapboard on the rear addition.
4. Structural system: Wood frame.
5. Porches: A one-story, hip-roofed porch protects the central three bays of the west/front facade; plain, squared columnar supports with gingerbread bracing and balustrade.
6. Chimneys: There are two brick interior chimneys; one centered along the east wall of the enclosed kitchen ell, the other on the south gable end of the main block.
7. Openings:

- a. Doorways and doors: The front/west entry is a single, wood-paneled door in the center of the five bays; it appears to have a modest architrave trim.

The rear entrance on the east facade leads from the back porch into the kitchen addition; presumably it contains a plain, single wood door with little embellishment.

- b. Windows: The windows on both floors of the west facade are consistently two-over-two-light double-hung wood sash enframed with plain architrave trim and Classical lintel, as is the single opening on the first floor of the north gable end.

The three windows in the kitchen addition are one-over-one-light double-hung wood sash, with the same surrounds as described

above.

The second-floor, rear facade features windows that have been replaced with modern six-over-six-light double-hung sash.

8. Roof:

- a. Shape: Side-gable with asphalt shingles.
- b. Eaves: Slim and plain, boxed frame eaves.

- C. Site: The Andrew Andre House faces west, sited on the southeast corner of High Street and Pine Alley, a neighborhood of largely detached, single-family residences. Historically it has been part of a large, three-lot parcel, only one block from the original railroad right of way.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

A. Old Views and maps:

The collection of the Saltsburg Branch, Historical and Genealogical Society of Indiana County, Stone House Museum, contains numerous historical images.

Beers, F.W. Atlas of Indiana County. New York: F.W. Beers and Co., 1871.

Johnson, George B., and Palmer, Ann. Saltsburg--The Way It Was--An Appreciation. Indiana, Pa.: A.G. Halldin Publishing Co., 1986.

Peelor, David, and Barker, W. "Map of Indiana County, Pennsylvania." North Hector, New York: 1856.

"Saltsburg, Pa." New York: Sanborn Map and Publishing Co. Ltd., February 1886; New York: Sanborn-Perris Map Co. Ltd., October 1891, January 1897, July 1903; New York: Sanborn Map Company, April 1909, February 1927.

B. Primary and unpublished sources:

Indiana County, Pennsylvania, deed books and tax records.

C. Secondary and published sources:

Arms, C.T., and White, E. 1745-1880, History of Indiana County, Pennsylvania. Newark, Ohio: J. A. Caldwell, 1880.

Berringer, Gloria, ed. Canal Days Sesquicentennial: 1838-1988. No publisher, 1988.

Biographical and Historical Cyclopedia of Indiana and Armstrong Counties. Philadelphia: John M. Gresham and Co., 1891; reprinted 1982.

Johnson, George. Saltsburg and the Pennsylvania Canal. Historic Saltsburg, 1984.

McCullough, Robert, and Leuba, Walter. The Pennsylvania Main Line Canal. York, Pa.: American Canal and Transportation Center, 1973.

National Register of Historic Places Inventory, "Western Division of the Pennsylvania Canal: Indiana and Westmoreland Counties." 1979/82.

Stewart, J.T. Indiana County, Pennsylvania: Her People, Past and Present. Chicago: F.W. Beers and Co., 1913.

Wallner, Peter A. "Politics and Public Works: A Study of the Pennsylvania Canal System, 1825-1857." Ph.D diss., Pennsylvania State University, June 1973.

#### PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was conducted by the Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record in cooperation with the America's Industrial Heritage Project under the directorship of Randy Cooley; AIHP is an undertaking of the National Park Service, based in Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania. Recorded under the direction of Robert J. Kapsch, chief of HABS/HAER, the project was completed during summer 1988 at the HABS field office in Johnstown, Pennsylvania. Project leader was Alison K. Hoagland, senior HABS historian; field supervisor was Dorothy Burlingame, University of Vermont; project historian, Kristin Belz, University of Virginia. Large-format photography is by David Ames. Editing of the final report was done by Sara Amy Leach, HABS historian.

This report was completed as part of a larger project documenting two canal towns-- Saltsburg, on the Western Division of the Pennsylvania Mainline Canal, and Alexandria, on the Juniata Division--flanking the Allegheny Divide. Twenty-one

reports on other buildings in Saltsburg, an overview history of Saltsburg (HABS No. PA-5438), and of canal town development in Pennsylvania (HABS No. PA-5666) are part of the HABS/HAER collection. Twenty-two reports on buildings in Alexandria (Huntingdon County) and an overview history of Alexandria (HABS No. PA-5407) are also available. Results of the project were published as Two Historic Pennsylvania Canal Towns: Alexandria and Saltsburg, Sara Amy Leach, editor (Washington, DC: Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record, National Park Service, March 1989).